

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE House District 35

February 17, 2010

Dear Senator Stedman,

One of the most promising opportunities to create new sustainable jobs and small business opportunities in coastal communities is through shellfish aquaculture. Opportunities to expand the economies of Alaska's coastal communities are limited, particularly in rural areas where the cost of producing and transporting goods are very high.

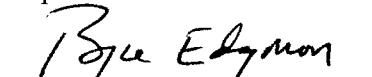
As the state's only shellfish hatchery, the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery in Seward is a vital component in the ability of Alaskans to engage in the global shift to producing shellfish through aquaculture techniques. In addition to producing seed for aquatic farms, the hatchery has become the focal point in research into rehabilitating troubled wild stocks of red and blue king crab, razor clams, sea cucumbers, cockles and littleneck clams.


As the elected representatives of coastal areas, we believe the State of Alaska needs to ensure the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery remains operating. The hatchery had to close temporarily this past year and was able to reopen during January on the strength of a \$100,000 federal stimulus grant. We support inserting a \$150,000 project into the FY 2011 capital budget to help sustain the shellfish hatchery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,


Representative Paul Seaton


Representative Bryce Edgmon


Representative John Harris


Representative Beth Kerttula

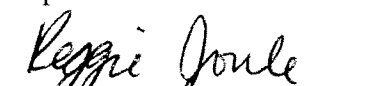

Representative Cathy Munoz


Representative Alan Austerman


Representative Mike Chenault


Representative Kyle Johansen


Representative Bill Thomas


Representative Reggie Joule